

## Life in the Mid-Atlantic Colonies

**SOL 5b - The student will demonstrate knowledge of the factors that shaped colonial America by describing life in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies, with emphasis on how people interacted with their environment to produce goods and services, including examples of specialization and interdependence.**

Just as each of the colonies was established for different reasons, life in the three colonial regions differed, too. Let's learn about the differences in **geography, climate, resources, specialization, social life, and political life** of the **Mid-Atlantic**. We will also learn about **interdependence**, or how the Mid-Atlantic colonies depended on other colonies for goods and services.

To the south of the New England colonies were the Mid-Atlantic colonies. This region was also located between the Appalachian Mountains on the west and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. The Mid-Atlantic climate was moderate with warm summers and mild winters. Wide, deep rivers flowed through the rich soil of coastal lowlands and emptied into many natural harbors and bays.

This area produced good farmlands where colonists grew grain and raised livestock. In addition, the rivers, harbors, and bays allowed many colonists to make a living as fishermen. Others became skilled workers such as carpenters or cobblers or unskilled workers such as farm laborers.

The people of the Mid-Atlantic colonies lived in small villages and bustling cities. The lifestyles of the people were very diverse -- they practiced many religions, spoke many languages, and came from many countries other than England such as Germany, Ireland, Scotland, and the Netherlands.

The political life of the Mid-Atlantic colonies revolved around **market towns**. These towns provided a center for trade and services on which the people of the surrounding countryside depended. People came together in market towns to buy, sell, and discuss the daily issues of the community.

Being located between the New England Colonies and the Southern Colonies made it possible for the Mid-Atlantic Colonies to trade for the products they needed but did not produce or make themselves. They depended on the New England colonies for metal tools and equipment and depended on the Southern colonies for forest products, tobacco, cotton, rice and indigo.

